REMARKS

This application is a divisional of allowed parent application 09/877,639. In the parent application, claims 23-27 were canceled in response to a restriction requirement. By this amendment, claims 23-27 are being presented. Claims 1-22 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New dependent claims 27-34 have been added.

The Abstract has been amended to reflect the current claims. The drawings and specification have been amended in conformance with the amendment in the parent application.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable consideration of the present application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned should the Examiner believe it would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 1/27/04

Neil D. Gershon Reg. No. 32,225

Attorney for Applicant

Rex Medical 2023 Summer St. Suite 2 Stamford, CT. 06905 (203)348-0377